
2009 Award Winners Announced for Lead Awareness Art Contest

Winners to receive commendations from the Board of Supervisors

The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors presented honorary scrolls to the first place winners of the Department of Public Health's 2009 Lead Awareness Art Contest. The contest, themed "Lead Free is the Way to Be," encouraged youth to demonstrate ways to reduce lead hazards in the home and environment through educational art.

"This art contest helps educate parents, teachers and students by promoting awareness on lead poisoning prevention," said Los Angeles County Supervisor Don Knabe, who lead the presentation at the August 4th Board of Supervisors meeting.

The most common way children in LA County are poisoned is through exposure to lead-based paint, especially if it is deteriorating. Lead-based paint is commonly found in houses, apartments, and buildings built before 1979. Dust and chips from the paint can settle on toys, windowsills and floors, where they can be swallowed by children. In addition, some traditional or folk health remedies, imported dishes and ceramics, and imported candies may bring lead into the home.

"In 2008, more than 900 children in Los Angeles County suffered from lead poisoning, which is as preventable as it is tragic," said Jonathan E. Fielding, MD, MPH, Director of Public Health and Health Officer. "This art contest is designed to highlight the problem and provide resources for families to address it."

Contestants' entries were judged according to grade level, originality of art, and design quality. Judges also looked for a good demonstration of knowledge of lead sources, and different ways that lead poisoning can be prevented. The panel of judges included community stakeholders, staff from Public Health and community service organizations. Winning contestants received trophies and other prizes that were presented to them during school assemblies.

The winner's of this year's contest are:

Student	Award	Grade	School	City
Jeana Yoon	1st Place	K	Topeka Drive Elementary	Northridge
Alexander Intrepido	1st Place	1	Precious Blood School	Los Angeles
Natalie Ybarra	1st Place	2	Montague Charter	Pacoima
Isaiah Hong	1st Place	3	Castlebay Lane Elementary	Northridge
Fatimah Ogunmowo	2nd Place	3	Castlebay Lane Elementary	Northridge
Isaac Sandoval	1st Place	4	109th Street Elementary	Los Angeles
Faith Baltierra	1st Place	5	Montvue Elementary	Pomona
Jorge Córdova	1st Place	6	Montvue Elementary	Pomona
Susana Martínez	1st Place	9	Santana High School	Rowland Heights
Bryan Tecotl	1st Place	10	Santana High School	Rowland Heights
Breanna Koehler	2nd Place	10	Santana High School	Rowland Heights
Liset Anzu	1st Place	11	Santana High School	Rowland Heights
Vanessa Oregon	1st Place	12	Santana High School	Rowland Heights